

Series I
Correspondence,
1932-1973

Box 2, Folder 2

March 17, 1948 -
May 16, 1948

0035

17 March 1948

Dear Ralph:

I am forwarding to you by separate correspondence, a copy of the Coral Sea which you requested some time ago. I regret I could not get it to you earlier, but the printed copy did not arrive until a few days ago, and my typewritten copies were all in use by my section and by the historical section here and in Washington. I hope that you find it all that you hoped. I am particularly interested that you should like it because, as I told you down there, you are one of the officers in the Navy who I think understands thoroughly the use of the brain.

You may have thought that I was a screwball in my comments about the War College because I felt that all senior officers of competence should be given the opportunity of coming here. There are now 73 Rear Admirals recently made, of whom scarcely 10% are graduates. It is quite probable that within the next couple of years all of them will come to an advanced class here to give them the opportunity which was denied them heretofore. As a matter of fact, this is an approved policy.

The world situation is getting more and more confused, and in some ways I envy you your position there to be "in the know." Your primary job, without mentioning it here, is to me of number one importance.

There is an hysteria sweeping across the American public, as expressed by my St. Patrick's Day-clad secretary who, on hearing that the Alsop brothers had forecast a probability of war in two months, said--"Is that all the time I have to live"? I am afraid that the American public does not understand fully the strength and weakness factors of modern weapons.

With warmest personal regards to yourself, I am as ever,

Your Old Friend,

R. Admiral Ralph Ofstie
Room 1078
Navy Department
Washington, D.C.

0036

24 March 1948

Dear Ted:

I received your information concerning the Naval Academy-West Point dinner, but I regret to say that I see no chance of getting there. It will probably be a lot of fun, and a lot of you fellows will get oiled, but I don't think that it is important for me to be there. One of these days I plan to be in New York and I shall certainly see you if you are there then. As a matter of fact, spring is here now, and summer is not too far away, so perhaps I shall see you in the summer anyway if I am here.

I want you to know that the fact that you don't hear from me very often is no sign that Eduardo Breedo has been forgotten. Far from it! But it does mean this--that I get so damn tired writing, of analyzing and weighing stuff, that no one hears from me at all, excepting under pressure. For example, I wrote home the day before yesterday to wish my beloved mother Easter greetings. She hadn't heard from me for some time before that. Could it possibly be a lack of affection? The answer is a definite negative. So with your artistic temperament you must not get emotional towards your friends if they appear to forget you. Perhaps you ought to get married, and then you will be so busy that your friends will be as critical of you as you are of me now. My secretary says she will put in a bid for this job if you really mean it.

There isn't much new to relate. The world situation smells. Whether it will become as odiferous as Limberger or will improve to the aroma of a Bel Pais, I do not know. It will never, that I can think of, every really become as lovely as the hyacinth.

I hope your mother is now vastly improved and has been restored to her full vigor of body. Certainly her mind never failed her. Give my best to her and other members of your family who may be present. Take care of yourself. As ever,

Your Old Friend,

R. W. Bates

Mr. Edward Breed
165 West School Lane
Germantown
Philadelphia, Pa.

0037

29 March 1948

Dear Mariad:

I cannot begin to tell you my distress at hearing that you are really ill and losing weight rapidly. Ted Breed wrote me a note and informed me. I am sorry that it had to come from him, because you and I have been friends for so long. I should have heard from you direct. However, you had every reason not to write to me because I have not answered your several letters during the fall. My reason for this was definite. I felt that perhaps you were worrying too much about yourself and that if I got in contact with you, that it might increase your frailties rather than strengthen them. I evidently was entirely in error, and I can only ask your forgiveness for doing what at the time I thought was a wise move; that is wise in your behalf.

I cannot believe that you are as ill as Ted indicated. I know that you have had a lot of sorrow and misfortune which never should have been visited on you. I know that you have tried to overcome your difficulties, and it was my thought that you had succeeded. When I saw you last year in North Carolina I was very impressed at your remarkable improvement in health, and noted that you were yourself again. Evidently the blow of the loss of your son and then of your sister left scars which have never fully healed. I still think that your difficulty is not entirely physical, but is somewhat spiritual. Have you tried that latter phase? By this I mean, if we can get ourselves into matters other than ourselves we suddenly find a new world. I know that Herbert Hoover was dying slowly because no one appreciated him. Then Mr. Truman asked him to search the world on a food mission, and Hoover lost 15 years in 15 seconds. Perhaps through contact with your old friends such as myself, you will recover that wish to live which is ever powerful in the human heart. I therefore place myself again at your disposal, and if you will write to me concerning your troubles, I will promise to reply at once. I want you to see from this that my attitude toward you was not an unfriendly one but was apparently more friendly than it should have been. In other words, in trying to help you, I may have hurt you.

0038

As for myself, I am still here at the War College laboring on my masterpieces, which seem to be accepted quite well. I understand somewhat your troubles because I have them too. My heart has never recovered and never will, and at intervals I have pains for which I cannot account. For example, today my left arm is aching; fortunately not too badly. Last week it ached so much that I went to the doctor about it. I was informed that some nerve was irritated or exposed. Perhaps these pains are not caused by the heart at all, but are mental. That is, if we are unhappy for one reason or another, even though we may not know it, we discover it through some frailty of the human system.

I understand that you have had quite a winter down there, but infinitely better than ours here in Newport. Here, we have averaged about zero for a long time, and have had the greatest snowfall in recorded history. I now am a tested New Englander and I am delighted to have passed through the test of freezing so successfully. I suppose I am almost a Down Easter.

The Easter parade in Newport wasn't anything too much, although Trinity Church, the Episcopalian Church, was jammed-packed. It was a great sight. I didn't see any costumes too outlandish such as was noted in the Herald Tribune this morning in the New York parade. My acceptance of the "new look" appeared solely in a gardenia in my button hole, which so permeated the place that many around me were doped. I wonder if the rector thought it was his sermon!

I hope to hear from you immediately as to your condition. I want to reiterate here that you are a friend of mine and a really deep one. Nothing in my actions would indicate this, but knowing me as you do, I think that you can believe it. Take care of yourself, and best wishes for the Easter season. As ever,

Your Old Friend,

Mrs. Mariad Calvert
Miami, Florida

0039

6 April 1948

Annapolis Banking & Trust Co.
Annapolis, Maryland

Gentlemen:

In reply to your letter of April 2, I wish to advise you that I am somewhat surprised at receiving it, as on 16 February 1948 I answered your letter of 5 February. A copy of my reply is herewith enclosed.

I repeat, I desire this taken out of my account, and for you to notify me that you have done so.

Very sincerely,

R. W. Bates
Captain, U.S.N.

Encl.(1)

0040

6 April 1948

Dear Rip:

I noticed with a great deal of interest, and need I say it, satisfaction, that you had been promoted to the extremely important assignment of DCNO for operations. With you in there to handle amphibious matters, and with Radford to handle air, and Louis Denfeld to smooth out the quarrels, I feel that we have quite a good working setup there. I have to congratulate Louis in choosing you. Frankly, I have been somewhat worried, but I don't think that I will worry any more.

I am working up here to write these critical analyses of World War II, and I am now finishing Midway. Those who have read it have been extremely kind in their comments, so I also feel gratified.

Give my very best regards to your beloved wife, and believe me when I say I am pleased about your assignment. As ever,

Your Old Friend,

R. W. Bates

R. Adm. Arthur D. Struble
Office of Chief of Naval Operations
Navy Department
Washington, D.C.

0041

12 April 1948

Dear Admiral Kalbfus:

This is to return to you the enclosed which you very kindly sent to me. I recollect clearly that you showed this to me when you first obtained it from the General. Not only was General Balmer interested in the Green Book, but other Army officers at the time told me that it was the only exposition of the solution of the military problem which they had encountered in their entire military service. Captain Eccles now tells me that he is becoming more and more convinced that the need for more training along lines of sound thinking is necessary if the students of the War College are to be able to perform adequately their functions as naval officers.

Colonel Schmidt tells me that he cannot find the General's location at present, and has therefore written to Washington to locate the gentleman.

Thank you very much for sending this to me. It is interesting and correct.

Very sincerely,

R. W. Bates

Admiral E.C.Kalbfus
Restmore
Miantonomi Ave.
Newport, R.I.

0042

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April 13, 1948

Mr. Charles F. Colbert, Jr., President
Pittsburgh Metallurgical Co., Inc.
Niagara Falls, New York

Dear Mr. Colbert:

In one of our telephone conversations I promised to send
you some pictures which I took in Manila, and which I
thought would interest Dick. I enclose them herewith.

With best regards.

Sincerely yours,

WM H. MULLER & CO., INC.

[Signature]
ROBERT E. LEONI
Vice President

REL.DMW
Enclosures

*I will not return the
pictures to you as a
favor
Daddy*

0043

14 April 1948

Dear Scotty:

It was very nice to see you and your Mrs. the other day. I am glad DeWitt Peck came into town, if only for the opportunity it granted me of saying "Hello". You are not forgotten around the War College and we often talk of you. The general opinion seems to be you did a very fine job. This is corroborated by my secretary (Miss Keith) who says that she labored hard for you, and wants to say "Aloha", so I am saying it for her.

I have been thinking over the suggestion which you made that Rhode Island State College would like to give me a Doctor's Degree. I have been endeavoring to determine a subject which would be suitable for Rhode Island State and which would characterize my operations. As you perhaps know, I am head of the Department of Analysis here and am working on the critical analyses of the major naval battles of World War II. Unfortunately, the work is confidential, but you can see it. It has met, so far, the highest approbation from War College as well as Navy Department circles. It appears to me then, that a degree as Doctor of Naval Analysis might not be unworthy. It would be distinctly unusual. Admiral Spruance told me one day, and this has been verified in Washington, that I was given this assignment because I appeared to be the officer best qualified in the Navy to do it. I cannot comment on this, excepting to say that the results speak for themselves, and to point to the comments made above by the War College and Admiral Spruance.

Needless to say, I should like to receive this degree very much indeed. There is not enough collaboration between the colleges and the Armed Services, although more and more collaboration will be effected soon. This is a move in the right direction. As you probably have G.I.'s in quantity at Rhode Island State, it should be pleasing to them to see officers recognized for talents similar to yours and mine.

One of these days in the immediate future I plan to come over and see you in Jamestown anyway, if just to pass the time of day. I am also interested in the fact that both you and Gibb Hoover seem to be pillars in your communities.

0044

Is there anything more that I have to do along the lines of this degree?

With warmest personal regards and many thanks for your thoughts of me, I am as ever,

Your Old Classmate,

R. Adm. Scott Umsted
Walcott Ave.
Jamestown, R.I.

0045

15 April 1948

Dear Chick:

I have been wanting to write to you for some time relative to your duties as class secretary, and, in addition, to find out when the next class luncheon will occur, as I might be able to get there. As you perhaps know, I was class secretary for several years while I was in Washington, and I discovered that most of the work had to be done by me alone. I wrote letters to classmates, and upon failing to hear from them, I often wrote about them--sometimes to their chagrin and sometimes to their good humor. I hope that you are not finding the same difficulty.

As regards this area, there are only a limited number of our classmates that I see or even know of. One of them, Scott Umsted, now a retired Rear Admiral, is a professor at Rhode Island State College, where, from all reports, he is not only thoroughly enjoying himself, but is carving a new career most successfully. He appears to be extremely popular in Jamestown, and seems to be a member of almost anything important concerning the welfare of the community. His wife appears to be one of Jamestown's most delightful women.

Another one of our classmates, our perennial humorist, Nemo Moore, is also here. I meet him and his charming wife quite frequently at the Officers Club, and I think that both of them are looking very well. Nemo, for the present, has decided to take it easy, and both he and his Mrs. are contemplating a trip to Florida or California, with the possible objective of living in one place or the other. While I don't say that the 5 feet of snow and 6 months of winter which we had up here have driven him out of New England, I nevertheless feel that it could be a contributory factor. Nemo is quite alert to everything going on and appears to study a great deal.

The most important classmate, military speaking, is our Chief of Staff of the War College, Hoke Smith. Hoke, also like Nemo, has always had a good sense of humor, and no matter how pressing the situation, he still can come down, like Admiral Nimitz, with an appropriate crack. He has done a great deal for the Naval War College, which I believe to be at the present at the highest peak in its existence as an educational institution on naval matters. Hoke would be too modest to take any credit for this, but I think those of us here realize how helpful he has been to that great

0046

gentleman and leader, Raymond A. Spruance. You can send any of your friends to this college without any fear that their professional judgment will not be vastly improved. Hoke's wife, Margaret, has shown unusual organizing ability. She has been a great help to him and to all of us in organizing the wives of the War College into self-entertainment groups. They have lectures from outstanding lecturers, fashion shows, cocktail parties, etc., which have gone a long way towards keeping them happy during the many months which must pass before their husbands are able to drop their books and return to the home firesides. Margaret is going to Switzerland this summer to visit her brother, who is U.S. Minister to Switzerland.

On Saturday afternoon I am to go to Gibb Hoover's, who apparently is giving a party for the Homer Grafs. I am quite interested in seeing Homer. Although he is but a few hours away in New York, I generally see him about once each year. Lorette has always been a beautiful person, and at my last sight of her some months ago, she had maintained her high average. If I learn anything out of Homer I will tell you about it!

As for myself, I am still laboring on my books, and have now about finished the Battle of Midway. This is quite a tome, and it is my hope that it will meet the friendly applause which appears to have greeted the Coral Sea. I don't know what my future will be in the Navy. I still have not decided quite what to do, for reasons which you well know and which are useless to discuss here.

I look forward to seeing you and Rosalie presently. As you realize, I have a deep affection for both of you.

Finally, I want to say that I received a letter from Swede Overesch in which he stated that he had resigned from the Hawaiian Pineapple Co. of which he was Vice President. Swede is a man of the highest integrity and utmost capability. His reasons for resigning are purely personal ones. I have no doubt that any of us with Swede's viewpoint toward life would probably do the same thing. Swede feels that we have only so many years of life granted to us, and that he would like to take some of those years to know better his country and its people.

With warmest personal regards, I am as ever,

Your Old Pal,

R. Admiral Robert O. Glover
Hydrographic Office
Navy Department
Washington, D.C.

0047

Emery H. Hall
61 Catlin Ave.
Rumford 16, R.I.

My dear Mr. Hall:

This is merely to reassure you, if you had any doubts, that I will be at your home at about 6 o'clock on Monday, April 18th to speak on the subject "Why We Need A Navy".

I look forward to the opportunity of greeting you and the Men's Club of Newman Congregational Church.

Very truly yours,

R. W. Bates
Captain, USN.

0048

20 April 1948

My dear Mr. Hall:

I am writing to tell you how much I enjoyed the privilege of speaking at the Men's Club last night. You have a very fine club and, I think, an excellent spirit, with that excellent feeling of good fellowship which permeates a well-operating club.

I also enjoyed the opportunity of meeting you and your family, and to enjoy the very excellent dinner which you provided. Please tell your charming wife that I gained several pounds through her kind ministrations, and as I labor to remove them I shall always think of her and of her wonderful strawberry shortcake.

The game is spelled Beccie!

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. Bates

Mr. Emery H. Hall
61 Catlin Ave.
Rumford 16, R.I.

0049

20 April 1948

Dear Mr. Dingwell:

Last night I had the privilege of addressing the Men's Club at Rumford, R.I. Before I spoke I was a guest of one of the members there. I was immediately reminded of the very kind attentions which you paid me during my visit to Little Compton. I also became seriously cognizant of my failure to write to you and Mrs. Dingwell for your courtesy in having me to that excellent dinner at your home that night. I hope you will forgive me.

In addition, I hope that you will write to your son Paul and his beloved Elizabeth and say "Hello" for me.

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. Bates
Captain, U.S.N.

Reverend James D. Dingwell
Congregational Church
Little Compton, R.I.

0050

23 April 1948

Dear Bowling:

I noted the other day that you had received orders to the National War College, and I want to congratulate you upon that assignment. Frankly, I should have much preferred that you come here first, because we tackle problems in a different manner from the National War College, and I think that for an officer of your time, our methods would be of considerably greater value to you prior to your next assignment at sea. However, the National War College enjoys a very high prestige, is a very fine institution, and perhaps you can get as much or more than you require there. Anyway, best of luck!

You promised to advise me as to whether two things might occur. (1) Whether there was going to be any change in the so-called "hero" amendment. That is, is there to be any bill this session to deny officers who got valor awards in the war the right to be advanced one rank higher on retirement. (2) Are they planning to introduce a new bill on physical retirement in this session of Congress, and if so, what does it contain in a general way?

I have been quite pleased with the comments concerning my Battle of the Coral Sea. We have had a number of requests for additional copies, and I have been commended directly by Admirals who fought at that time. One of these was Admiral Ainsworth.

Are you planning to go to that PT boat affair in New York? I don't know that I can get there, as the College graduates its present class in about 3 weeks.

Take care of yourself, and best luck in your work at the National War College. As ever,

Your Old Friend,

R. W. Bates

Captain S.S. Bowling
Room 2054
Navy Department
Arlington, Virginia

0051

23 April 1948

Dear Miller:

It is some time since you have heard from me or even seen me, but judging from reports, you and that boss of yours are inordinately busy. I therefore hate to bother you. However, you agreed some time ago that you would advise me as to whether there were any plans to do away with hero amendment in the immediate future, or whether there might be any changes in the retirement laws, particularly for physical disability. I have heard nothing from you, so I presume that there is nothing new. Possibly next week I shall be in Washington to look the situation over.

I went to the turnover of command of Felix Johnson and Sol Phillips. It was a very pleasant affair, and old Sol was quite moved. Both Admirals made nice addresses to all hands.

Novelists say, never talk about the weather. However, I suppose that you will be interested to know that there are signs of buds on the trees now, and that your friends here who have been quick-frozen throughout the winter are beginning to come out of their hibernation. Perhaps we shall have a spring after all!

Give my best to Bill. With my warmest regards, I am as ever,

Your Old Friend,

R. W. Bates

Capt. L.N. Miller
Room 3080
Navy Department
Washington, D.C.

0052

26 April 1948

Dear Mr. Moran:

I have been in receipt of your communication relative to the Peter Tare, Inc. affair which will be held in New York April 30th and May 1st. I have refrained from writing to you about it because I wanted to attend, and my War College duties appeared to prevent it. I think you are entitled to know the reason for this. What happened is that my staff has been changed suddenly, with one officer in the hospital, where he has been for 6 weeks, and the other under orders for detachment. I am writing the critical analysis of the conduct of the commanders in the major naval battles of World War II. My staff have the information which I must absorb within the next several weeks. Fortunately, I seem now to have my latest work, the Battle of Midway, about ready for the printers. It is not impossible now that I might be able to arrive in time, at least for the dinner on Saturday night. I will call you by long distance telephone sometime Wednesday afternoon, and you can advise me then as to whether it is possible for me to attend.

I realize that my advanced registration should be in your hands by 15 April and that by even suggesting that I attend now I am completely out of order. I hope to stop at the New York Yacht Club, if I attend.

I want to commend you and those responsible for this organization, the Peter Tare, Inc. In my association with the TT boat personnel I found them to be of such high caliber in all ways that I feel confident that an organization constituted by and of them could well be a stabilizing influence within our American life. My warmest regards go with you in your endeavor.

With warmest personal regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. Bates

Mr. Joseph H. Moran, 2nd
17 Battery Place
New York, N.Y.

0053

27 April 1948

Dear Kitty:

It has been some time since you have heard from me in your Palm Beach menage by letter, although on several occasions I felt enthusiastic enough to telephone. Perhaps you may remember!

I have been thinking about you a little more than usual recently because some of your winter friends are arriving in Newport. I have asked about you on several occasions, but the invariable reply was, "Oh Yes, she was there but seemed to spend a lot of time on the Davies' yacht." Having heard from you from the yacht, I could readily understand the fact that you had been missed. However, you have not only been missed in Palm Beach but you have been missed from Haverford and Newport. Perhaps Saunders-town will see you this summer. If so, perhaps I shall too. Won't that be charming! I was very impressed about your trip on that yacht, and I can understand why it was that the entire party was received wherever they went with the honors due a member of a reigning house. I hope that it hasn't had too great an effect on you, as I always liked your naturalness and simplicity. Will I have to break out a red carpet in order to call?

You made me laugh the other day over the phone when you told me that I was absorbed in the people up the avenue--meaning, of course, Bellevue Avenue. Nothing could be farther from the truth. It is a disappointment to me that I have succeeded in conveying such an extraordinary view to you whom I thought knew me so well. I like people, and I can have as much fun with anyone, rich or poor, if they are real. That is quite an important thing. If I were so sold on people up the avenue, here, there and everywhere I should have married one long ago and probably done little thereafter. I like the people up the avenue--that is, many of them, and they keep me in good humor. That keeps me young. However, their views on the world are not necessarily mine and their viewpoint is distinctly different from mine in many matters. Please believe this! I had an idea that you and I thought very much alike. I remember when I first met you at Bar Harbor, and what you were doing then, and how much I liked you for it. Much water has flowed over the dam since then, yet I find that you have not changed very much. Probably the reason men like you, as they appear to do, is because of the fact that you were trained in a difficult school and made your own way under vicissitudes which

0054

challenged your ingenuity and courage. There is nothing wrong with Katherine Potter!

The weather has suddenly improved here, so that one of these days a few leaves may appear on the trees. I can hardly wait to see it. Now I know why it is that a New England spring is something to be reckoned with. After a winter of quick-freezing weather and after seeing everything dead, a return to life of the flowers and leaves is a sort of reassurance that the world is all right after all. To those properly religious, it indicates in a most striking way the fact that resurrection may not be only an idea after all. However, if we don't have some flowers pretty soon, I shall begin to question everything.

If you see any of my old friends wherever you are, please say "Hello" for me.

I look forward to seeing you very soon again, so you had better come to life with a bang!

Best Love As Always,

Mrs. Joseph Wear
Rose Lane
Haverford, Pa.

0055

3 May 1948

Mr. Robert E. Leoni,
Wm. H. Muller and Co. Inc.,
122 East 42nd St.,
New York 17, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Leoni:

My father has given me some pictures which you had sent to him as being of possible interest to me. They certainly are of interest and I appreciate them greatly.

I do not know of any city in the world which has suffered as much as Manila did in this last war. It sort of makes you sick, remembering what it was like back before the war and then looking at the pictures which show it's present condition. I guess it will be many years before Manila will be rebuilt. I have some friends in Manila who say that reconstruction is going along very slowly.

A lot of water has gone over the dam since that day I saw you in Manila and we drank beer at the taproom in the Manila Hotel. I hope that some time soon I will have the opportunity of seeing you again. Thank you for your thoughtfulness in sending me the photographs.

Sincere regards,

Dick Colbert

0056

3 May 1948

Gentlemen:

This is to thank you very much for your share in making the Peter Tare, Inc. reunion so successful and pleasant. Although I was unfortunate not to be able to see most of the affair, I nevertheless felt, from my association at the dinner, that all hands were extremely happy. That is a sure sign of an overwhelming success!

I think, as Admiral Kinkaid said in his prepared speech, that it is very wise for you to bring this organization to life. I am sure that you can accomplish a great deal of good in our Nation. Certainly the Navy needs your help, not only as regards Peter Tares, but also as regards its own future. The country must be alerted to the fact that modern warfare requires a Navy as much as it ever did in history. It needs men who have served with it to explain this to the public. The idea of atomic warfare, in some cases, seems to have dulled the minds of many who should know better.

I felt particularly fortunate that I sat between Stilley Taylor and Roger Hallowell. They are both great fellows, and I think did their part extremely well. You couldn't have chosen a better toastmaster than Hallowell, as he caught things in the air and tossed them back with redoubled force.

With best wishes for your success in the future, I am as ever,

Yours very sincerely,

Reunion Committee
Peter Tare, Inc.
c/o Mr. Joseph Moran, 2nd
17 Battery Place
New York, N.Y.

0057

3 May 1948

Dear Roger:

This is merely a note to tell you how much I enjoyed your toastmaster qualities and performance as displayed at the Peter Tare banquet in New York Saturday night.

You have a natural gift for this kind of work, and I can assure you I was impressed by the ease with which you handled each situation. You have a natural naiveness which takes everyone with you and yet, at the same time, you hit a home run every time the ball was tossed correctly. I was twice toastmaster at the biggest engineering banquet in the United States, and from my experience there I learned certain of the necessary factors for success, which you so ably demonstrated.

I hope to be at the next Peter Tare banquet in Boston. I sincerely trust that the mail will get me my invitation in time for me to be there.

My best regards to the Boston group.

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. Bates

Mr. Roger Hallowell
Reed and Barton
Taunton, Mass.

0058

3 May 1948

Dear Admiral Kinkaid:

It was wonderful to see you at the Peter Tare banquet Saturday night. You looked extremely well, and I thought that your talk to the Peter Tare boys was very much to the point. As a matter of interest, your mental picture of the world situation is quite similar to ours here, so that I felt gratified that our thinking evidently is logical.

Mindful of your request, I am sending you herewith our only copy of my speech delivered at the National War College last year on the subject of the Battle of Surigao Strait. As this is a National War College product it is not allowed out of the Naval War College. I should therefore appreciate your kindness if you would sign the custody slip for it and would return the manuscript later when you have finished reading it.

This lecture of mine is not a complete analysis. I had to work this up on my own while doing the Battle of the Coral Sea. Most of the Japanese translations which we will use when we come to it were not available and in fact probably have not even been translated. However, it is quite a good description of the attitude of the American High Command. I hope that you will find it interesting and instructive. Actually I think that the whole battle is pretty well laid out in this lecture, but there are some points which are not as yet clear. One of these is the time of the collision between the NACHI and the MOGAMI and their contact with the SHIGURE as she retired from the action.

Let me further say that I am sorry that you will not relieve Admiral Spruance as President of this College. I think the College needs the great prestige which you enjoy, to carry along the tradition which Admiral Spruance has established. The College would be well heeled if it could have you and your experience here to guide it.

Please convey my warmest personal regards to Mrs. Kinkaid.

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. Bates

Admiral Thomas Kinkaid
Commander Eastern Sea Frontier
90 Church St.
New York, N.Y.

0059

6 May 1948

Dear Agnew:

I am writing to tell you of the great satisfaction I enjoyed in seeing you at the Peter Tare banquet in New York. You looked very well, and I was happy to see that civilian life appears to agree with you despite your affection for the Navy.

I reiterate here that your work with me in putting out the Peter Tare fleet was extremely successful and no one could have been more helpful. I am indeed grateful.

With warmest personal regards, I am as ever,

Yours sincerely,

R. W. Bates

Mr. Wallace B. Agnew
1930 K Street, Northwest
Washington 6, D.C.

0060

12 May 1948

Dear Mariad:

I haven't heard from you since my epistle of 29 March, which means either one of two things, or shall we say perhaps of three. First, and most probable, you have decided to give me the same absent treatment which I gave you; second, you are furious with me and have pushed me overboard; and third, you are not in the mood to write, no matter to whom. As Chief of the Department of Analysis of the War College I believe the first one to be correct. I fear the second one may be, and I hope the third one has no realization in fact. However, no matter what the reason, I want you to know that I am quite interested in your welfare and should like you to sit down and drop me one line if necessary and merely say - "I am O.K." That will clear the air and give me a starting point.

I hope that you are finding the weather satisfactory in your area. Heaven only knows, we had a very tough winter here, but in the last few days there have been signs of spring. The magnolias are preparing to bloom, and some of the trees actually have buds. The birds are still as rare as a letter from you, but rumor has it that they are en route. This will be bad news for you because when the birds arrive in the North they only do so because the weather in the South is oppressive.

I always remember your fertility of brain in conceiving methods of defeating the enemy. I remember your thought of dropping big snakes in Berlin. I don't know that they would have been effective there because there are so many snakes in political life as to make it hard to distinguish the real from the false. Now this Russian situation offers a new field to your endeavors. Perhaps if we got some Florida crocodiles and launched them into Moscow they would think St. George and the Dragon had arrived, and would automatically surrender.

We have our graduation on Saturday, and a new bunch of reasonably trained minds will go out into the military world to toss their lances at windmills or at whatever else requires their spears.

I have no plans as yet for myself, and I will not have until perhaps another couple of weeks have passed. Some days I think I am ready to take on all comers like Casanova, and on other days I feel that even the life of Galahad would be too strenuous. My secretary says she prefers me as Lancelot--whoever he is!!!

0061

If I decide to retire I plan to go to California and probably do nothing, which will be very difficult for me. If I plan to remain I will go to California for a holiday, probably in June.

I haven't heard a word from Ted Breed, but I hope to see him up here presently.

Did you hear the joke about the fellow who was about to be married and told his bride-to-be that he was suffering from an incurable disease. The bride immediately broke the engagement and ran home screaming to mother. The fellow got engaged again, and having learned nothing from his first affair, told his second fiancée his troubles. She also screamed bloody murder and ran home to mother. This time he had learned, so he said to himself that he would not tell his bride his troubles until he had married her. He became engaged a third time, married the girl, took her to the bridal suite, billed and cooed a little bit, and then decided he would tell her. So he said to her, "Honey, I am suffering from a serious incurable disease." The bride backed away and said, "No! No!" He said, "Yes, I am color blind." The bride then replied in a relieved voice, "Boss, you sho is"!

With warmest personal regards, I am as ever,

Your Old Friend,

0062

12 May 1948

Dear Pres:

It was very nice of you to send me that PT tie clasp and the lady's pin. They both arrived in excellent condition. I can assure you I am most pleased to receive them because of the Motor Torpedo Boat Association which they always bring to mind.

You seem to be an extremely popular fellow, and I noted the Motor Torpedo Boat men appeared to appreciate you very much indeed. The vast portion of this regard is attributable to your own personal characteristics, but a portion of it is attributable to the excellence of your Motor Torpedo Boats in which so many PT men fought during the war.

I feel that I once knew your father very well. He used to be in Washington a great deal, and, on some occasions, we went round and round over interpretations of security matters. I think that he will agree now that the Navy conceptions then have been proven sound now. He is a fine gentleman.

I hope to see you again some day. I also hope that it will be before another PT conclave. As a matter of interest, I thought that the conclave was highly successful and showed excellent spirit.

With many thanks for the pins, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. Bates .

Mr. Preston L. Sutphen
Electric Boat Company
Elco Divisions
Bayonne, N.J.

0063

14 May 1948

Frederic's
561 Park Avenue
New York, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

Please repair and clean pocket platinum watch left
with you for estimate.

It is my understanding of your letter of May 8th that
this repair will cost \$7.00. I should appreciate your kind-
ness if you would expedite this job.

Very truly yours,

R. W. Bates .

0064

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, R. I.

15 May 1948

Dear Dick:

This will serve to introduce to you, Commander Guy W. Hawkins, RN. who has been a student at the Naval War College. Commander Hawkins has done very well here, it quite popular with everyone, and has obtained, I think, an excellent grasp of the American methods of doing things.

Personally I believe that it is extremely wise to exchange top-notch officers between our two Nations as we are now doing. It makes friendship and understanding to a high degree.

I hope that this finds you and Helen in wonderful health and enjoying the English spring. It is probably as lovely as our New England spring after a bitter winter.

No one knows who is coming here to relieve Admiral Spruance but rumor hath it that it may be you - not now but later.

Warmest regards. As ever

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Admiral Richard L. Conolly, USN.
CinC U.S. Naval Forces,
Eastern Atlantic and Mediteranean
Headquarters, 20 Grosvenor Square,
London, England.

0065

16 May 1948

Dear Frances:

It is some time since you have heard from me, but I want you to know that I often think of both you and Judge with a great deal of friendliness and affection. I wanted to write to you after your last letter, but I heard that you were wandering in the desert, so I thought it would be better to put it off until later. Later has now arrived, as Mrs. Spruance told me she had heard from you. So here goes.

First, I want to say that I appreciated your writing to me and telling me different matters of interest in your local area. I was glad to hear of Admiral Oldendorf, and of course glad to hear that you liked the Spruances' new house. Life is only of limited duration, and for that reason I wanted Oldendorf to quit because he is not well. I wanted Admiral Spruance to remain because he is well and is contributing greatly to the education of the officers of the Navy.

The departure of the Spruances from the War College will be greatly felt. Both he and she are very fine characters and both in a way have contributed their full share to the success of the Navy. It seems incredible to me that a man with all of Admiral Spruance's experience and vast knowledge of war could be permitted to retire. I tried to stop it by my own methods, and received word finally from Washington that it was thought best not to retain him. I am very fond of the Spruances and have a great admiration for them in every way. Of course, as you know, the one thing that burned me up was when Admiral Spruance allowed Commodore Carroll to retain his rank and permitted the other Commodores to be demoted. I think that the Admiral thought that we didn't care, whereas Penn Carroll did care. How he thought so, I don't know. But if Admiral Spruance has any frailty, it is in his knowledge of personnel. The importance of the morale factor in matters of this kind I do not think weigh heavy on him. His mind is on much bigger things and he himself is so modest that it is difficult for him to give these so-called trivial matters the importance they rate in the eyes of those concerned.

However, all of that is water over the dam, and he will leave here with my sincere regrets and my belief that he is the outstanding combat commander at sea in the war. I shall always have an affection for him. In fact I always have had. It was

0066

for that reason that I remained in this job after that demotion. I felt that I wanted to help him do his job.

Tomorrow the War College class graduates. John Nicholas Brown, the Assistant Secretary of Navy for Air, will give the graduation address, and a large attendance is forecast. The modern classes at the War College are composed of selected personnel, and therefore are generally en masse of much higher caliber than the pre-war War College classes were. Of course there were individuals in the pre-war classes who were equal to the best here. You, Judge, were considered to be one of those. But a high average is what we are after. It is now high.

As for myself, I haven't decided yet what I am going to do in this whole picture. Certainly I do not consider that I am fit for any and all duty, because I find that I tire readily. Although I haven't said anything to my family about this, I am beginning to show signs in my legs of something. The hospital doesn't know what it is, but the calves of my legs increase in size throughout the day about $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches, sometimes more, sometimes slightly less. This could be caused by kidney disorder, by too much sodium salt, and by improper circulation. The hospital is going to check me presently. Very frankly, I am not alarmed, but I may decide to check out of the whole show. It is very difficult to do this, as I am quite happy in my work. However, we shall see presently. I haven't mentioned any of this to the President of the War College or to his Chief of Staff.

I am delighted to know that you have been having such fun. Life being as short as it is, it seems to me that people have a right to some happiness. Both you and Judge seem admirably suited to each other, and it is wonderful the way you go off on these trips for fun. Keep it up!

I appreciated your interest in my own beloved parents, and I hope that when you get a chance you will drop down there and keep them in good humor. They are very remarkable, I think! Don't make any comment to them, please, about this matter of my legs, because it could well be unimportant.

I am planning to go to Washington tomorrow for about 3 days to see if I cannot find out what is in the air as regards myself and those of my time. If I find that it is really true that Congress is about to knife all of us one way or another, such as for example denying us the right to tax exemption if physically disabled, I shall feel inclined to ease out now.

0067

I don't suppose you are interested too much in my personal affairs, so I am not going to spread myself further, excepting to say that the two books which I have now completed, Coral Sea and Midway, have met with very fine favor. The Coral Sea is in circulation now in the Fleet, and Admiral Ainsworth sent word up the other day that it was about the best thing he had read in a long time. Pug is a fine fighting man, and I consider a word from him extremely valuable. My real reason for going to Washington concerns Midway.

Take care of yourself, and congratulate yourself on your California weather. We had a winter here which averaged somewhere near zero, with 6 feet of snow, and now all we have had for days is rain and fog. There are rumors that we may have summer in New England, but when, I don't know. I have hopes! A firm said over the radio this morning -- "If you are sick of New England and are planning to move elsewhere to live, we suggest that you storage your personal equipment with us."

As ever,

Your Old Friend,

R. W. Bates

Mrs. Herbert W. Underwood
1260 St. Charles St.
Alameda, Calif.

0068